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Form #0567

HÄNSEL AND GRETEL

A Fairy Opera

In Three Acts by ADELHEID WETTE

Translated and Adapted Into English by CONSTANCE BACHE

The Music Composed by

E. HUMPERDINCK

Complete Vocal Score by R. KLEINMICHEL

Ed. 1267

60pg

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ARGUMENT

NCE upon a time a poor broom-maker and his wife lived in a lonesome cottage in the Harz Mountains with their little son, Hänsel, and daughter, Gretel. When our story opens, the father and mother have gone away to sell brooms in the neighboring villages, leaving the children at work in the house. But work is tiresome, especially when empty stomachs are clamoring for unattainable goodies; finally the youthful pair start to romping about the room, and at the height of their frolic the mother enters, weary from her long trip and unhappy because she has been unable to sell She scolds the children, and sends them out into the forest to pick wild strawberries for supper.—Late that evening the father returns, having disposed of his brooms at a good profit, and gaily unpacks a quantity of dainties; then, missing the children, he asks after them, and is horrorstricken at thought of their pitiful plight all alone after nightfall in the woods.

Act II discovers the children roaming through the woods, gradually filling their baskets with strawberries; heedless of direction and time, eventide finds them bewildered in the darkening forest haunted, as they have been taught to believe, by fairies and witches. The steep, rocky bulk of the Ilsenstein, a reputed gathering-place for evil sprites, looms up amid the trees; the wind whispers and moans uncannily, and shadowy bush and hollow take on strange and fearful shapes. The frightened children cower together beneath a spreading tree, and repeat their usual bedtime prayer to the "fourteen guardian angels," after which, calmer in spirit, they fall asleep with a fairy vision of the radiant angels floating around them.

Act III opens at daybreak; the children awake, refreshed by a good night's sleep, and sing merrily. All at once they notice an object overlooked in the evening darkness—a beautiful little house built of all manner of good things'to eat, and giving off a most appetizing odor. This is, alas! the abode of a wicked witch, an ogress who entraps small boys and girls by her spells, pops them into her oven, and bakes them into delectable gingerbread, upon which she fares. Hänsel and Gretel approach the house and begin to break off tasty morsels from the walls; the witch appears and in due course casts a spell over them to prevent their escape; she now shuts Hänsel up in a sort of cage and feeds him on sweets to fatten him; then she tries to entice Gretel to bend down in front of the oven, so that she may be able to push her in and bake her; but Gretel pretends not to understand, and when the witch herself crossly bends down to show her how, the two children quickly shove her into the oven, bang the door shut, and dance around gleefully. Thereupon, all the gingerbread shapes that formed the hedge around the witch's house are transformed—her spell being broken—into their rightful shapes of happy boys and girls who thank Hänsel and Gretel for their deliverance; then the father and mother, who have been seeking their dear ones, burst upon the scene, and all winds up with a chorus of thanksgiving.

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Mu 182-H



Hänsel and Gretel,

Dramatis Personæ.

Peter, a broom-maker	Baritone.
Gertrude, his wife	Mezzo - Soprano.
Hänsel)	Mezzo - Soprano.
Hänsel)	Soprano.
The Witch who eats children	
Sandman (the sleep fairy)	
Dewman (the dawn fairy)	
Children	

Fourteen Angels......Ballet.

First Act. Home.

Second Act. The forest.

Third Act.

The witch's house.



Hänsel and Gretel.

Prelude.





















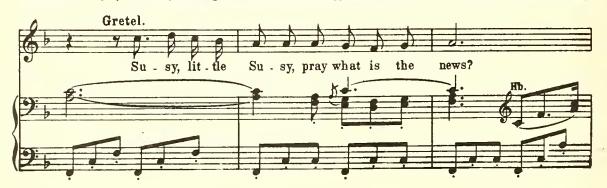
First Act.

Home.



First Scene.

(A small and poorly furnished room. In the background a door; a small window near it, looking on to the forest. On the left a fireplace with chimney above it. On the walls are hanging brooms of various sizes. Hänsel is sitting by the door, making brooms, and Gretel opposite him by the fireplace, knitting a stocking.)













































Scene II.











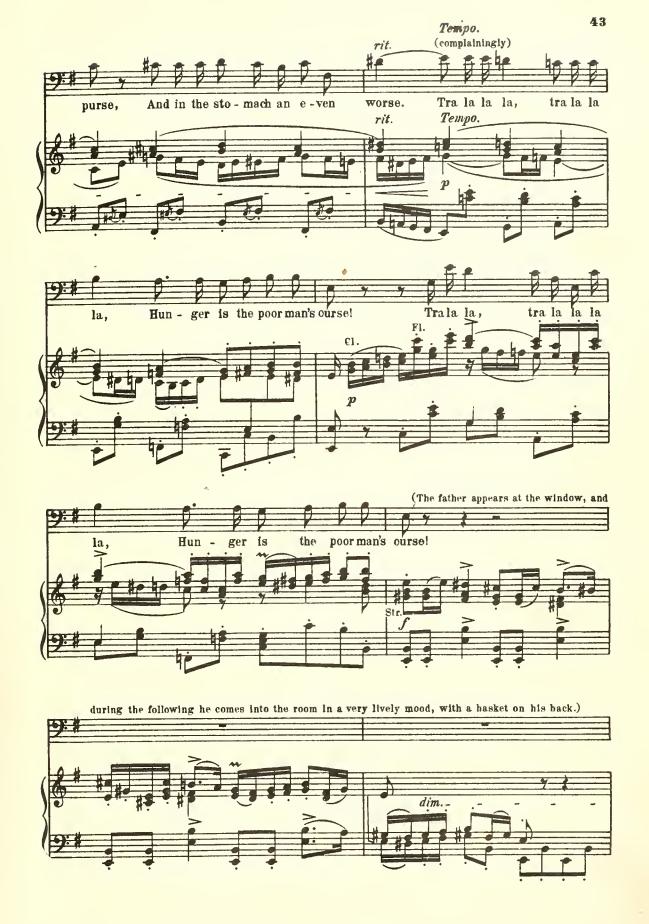


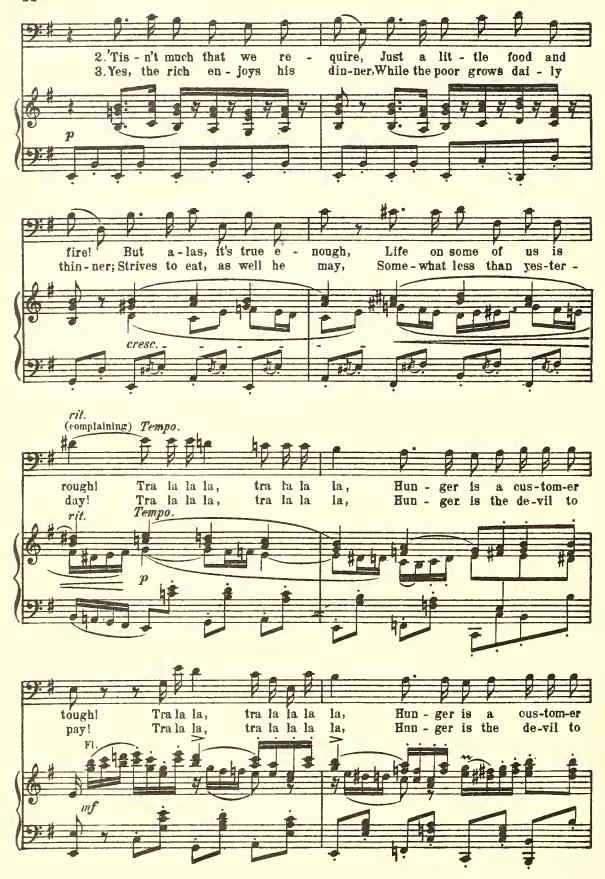




Scene III.















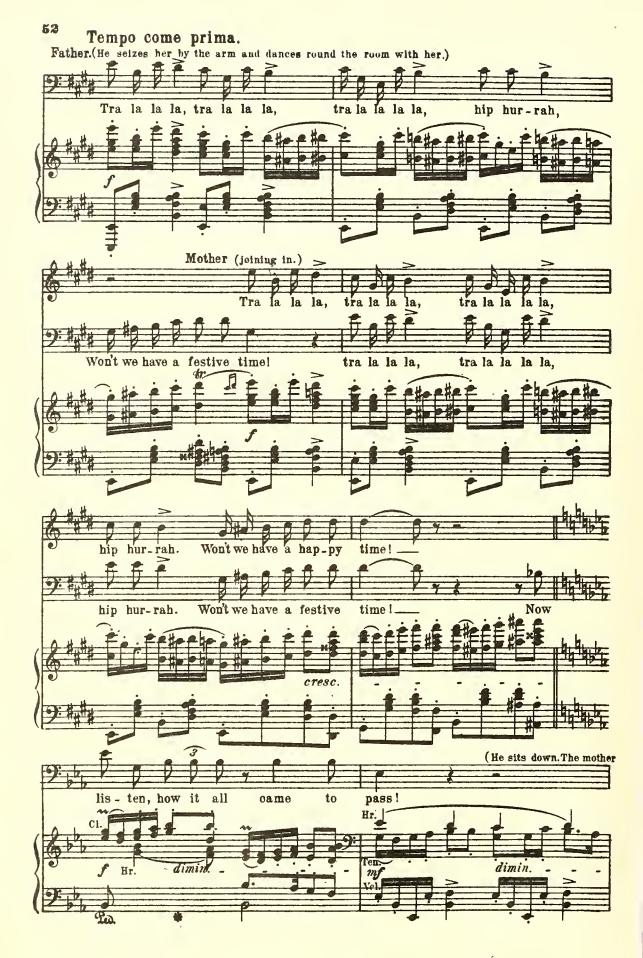






















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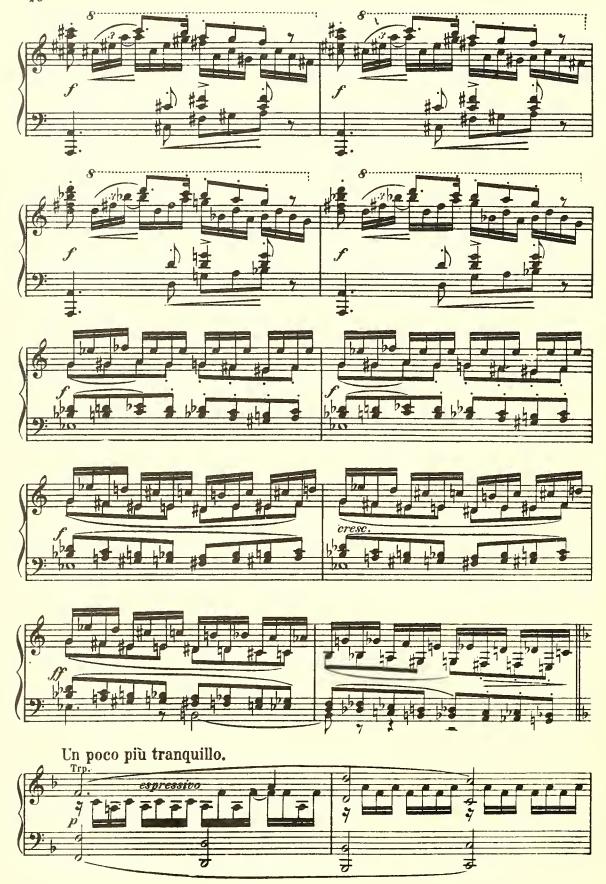


The Witches' Ride. Prelude to second Act.











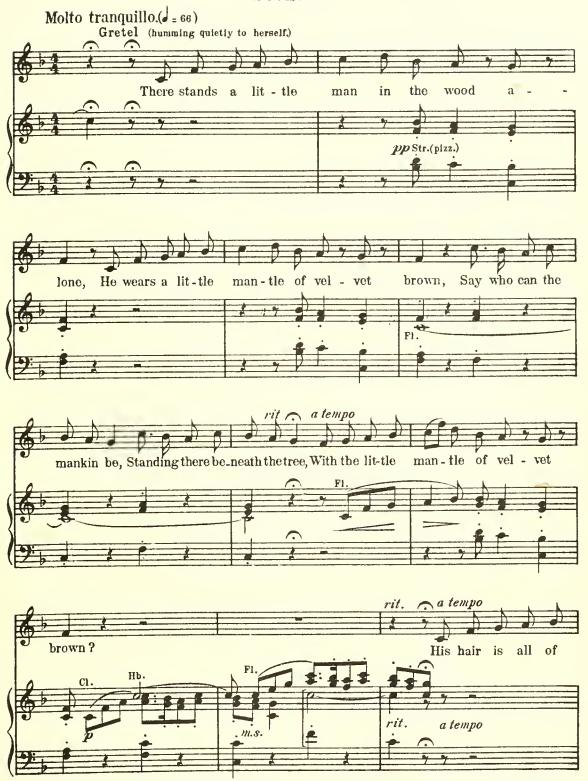


is the "lisenstein", thickly surrounded by fir-trees. On the right is a large fir-tree, under which Gretei is sitting on a mossy tree-trunk, and making a garland of wild roses. By her side lies a nose-gay of flowers. Amongst the bushes on the left is Hünsel, flooking for strawberries. Sunset.)



Second Act. In the forest.

Scene I.





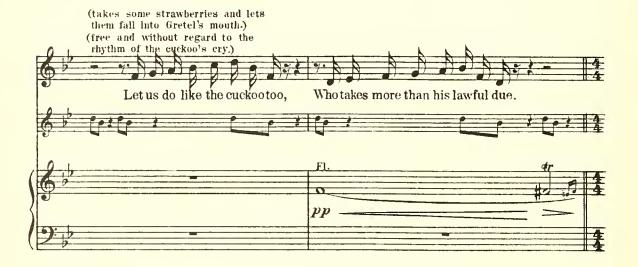






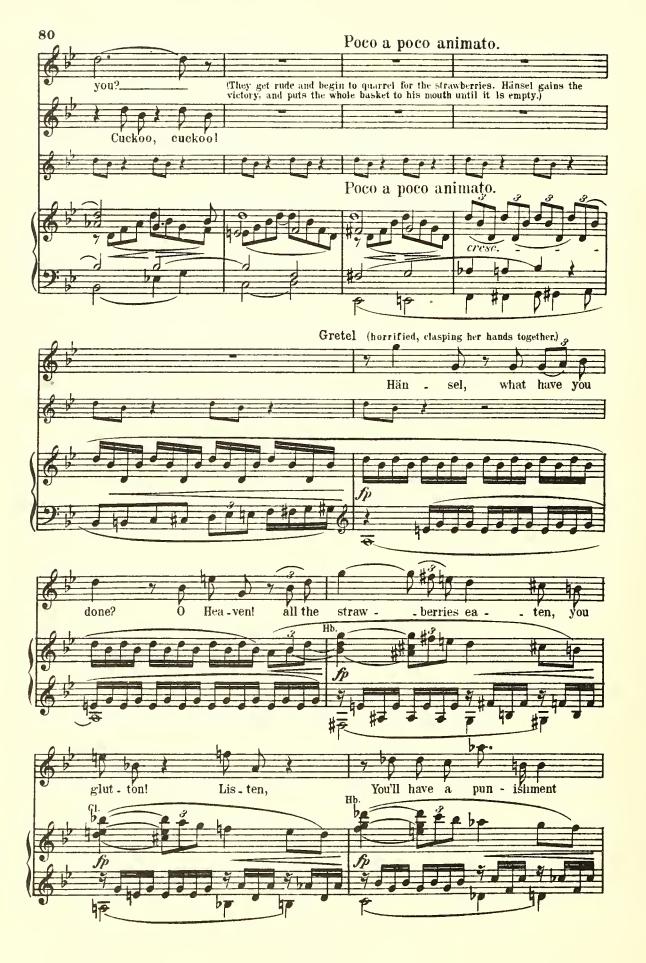


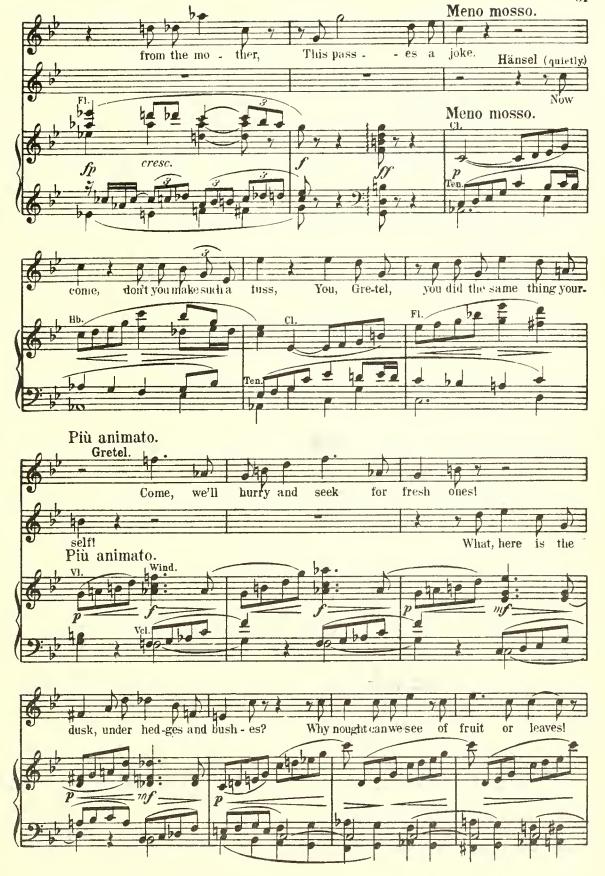




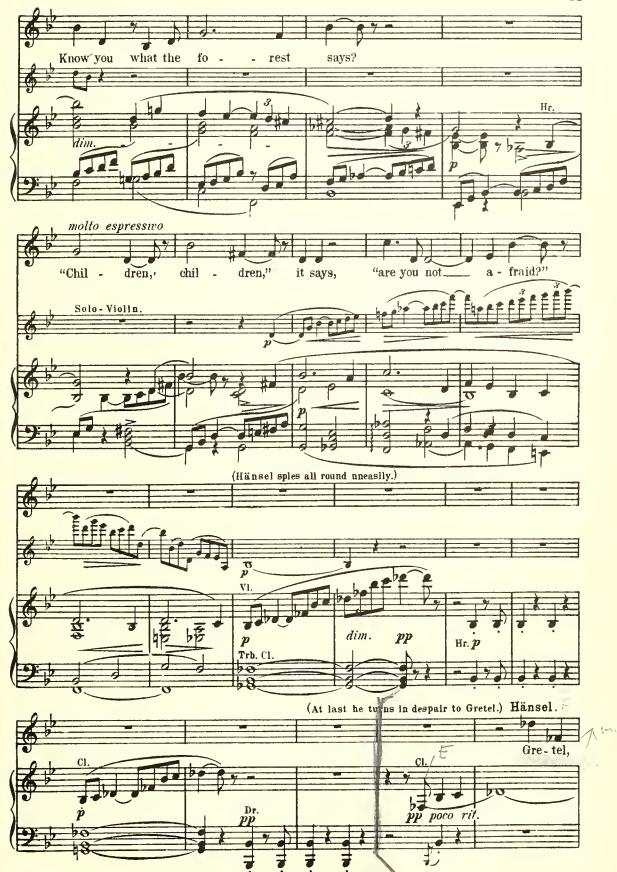
























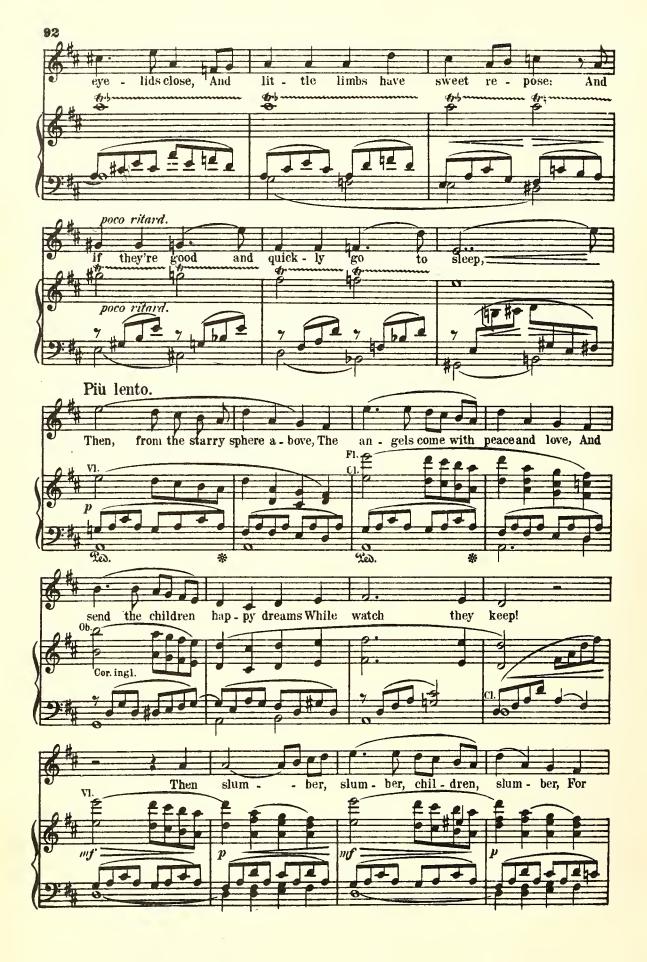




Scene II.

Moderato.





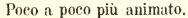






Scene III.

Pantomime.













Third Act.
The Witch's House.









(Scene the same as at the end of Act II. The background is still hidden in mist, which gradually rises during the following. The angels have vanished. Morning is breaking. The Dew-Fairy steps forward and shakes dewdrops from a blue-beil over the sleeping children.)





















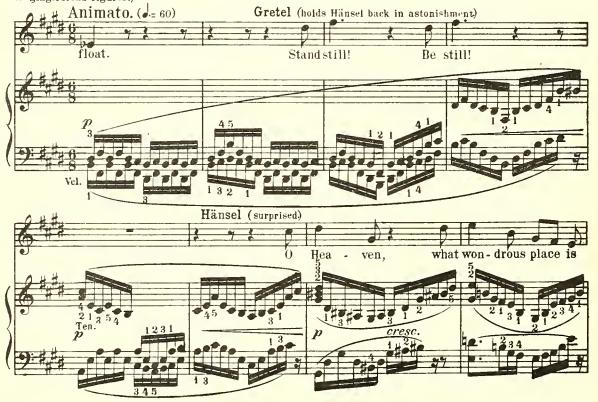






Scene II.

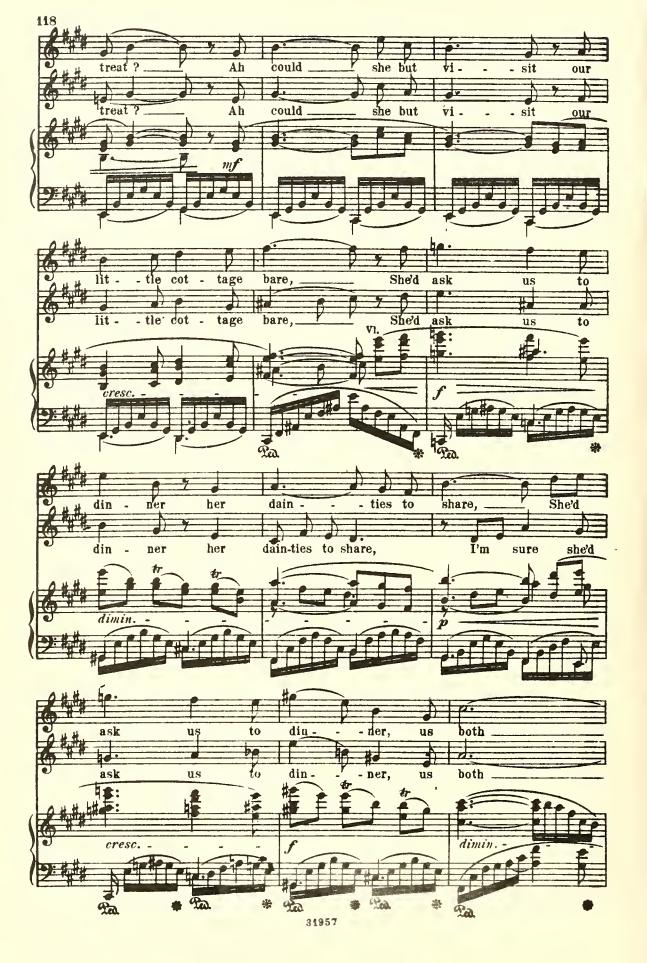
(He turns towards the background: at this moment the last remains of the mist clear away. In place of the firtrees is seen the Witch's House at the lisenstein, shining in the rays of the rising sun. A little distance off, to the left, is an oven; opposite this, on the right, a large cage, both joined to the witch's house by a fence of gingerbread figures.)





















Scene III.





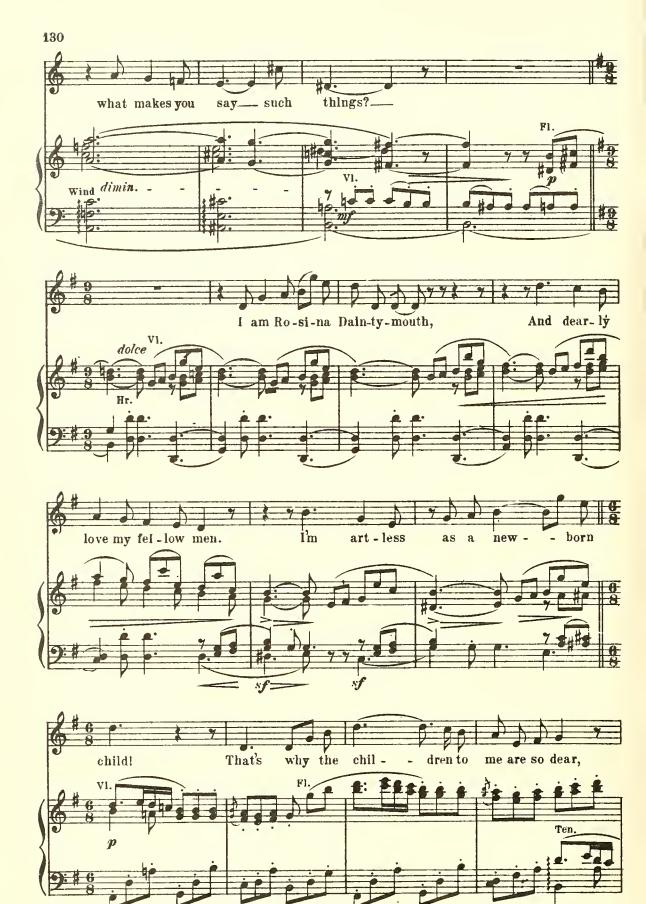








































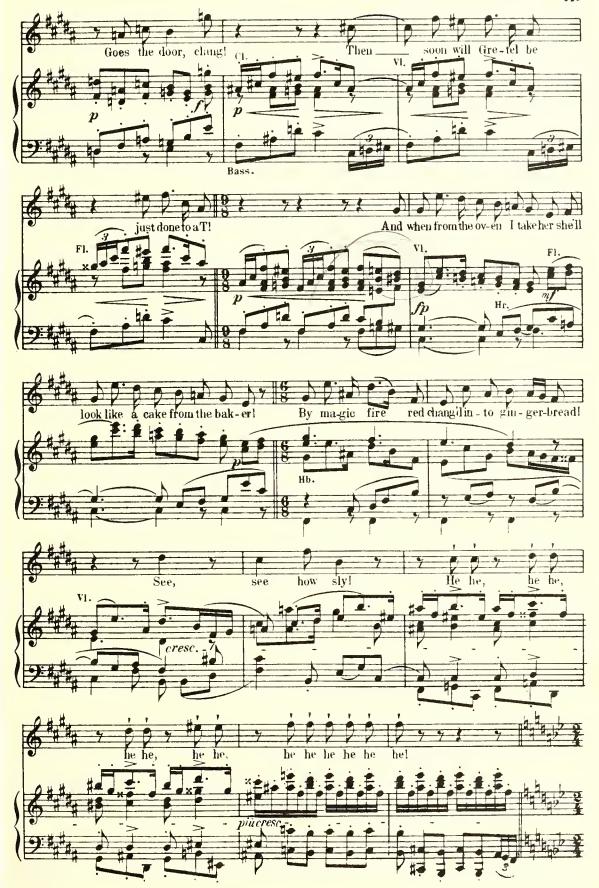








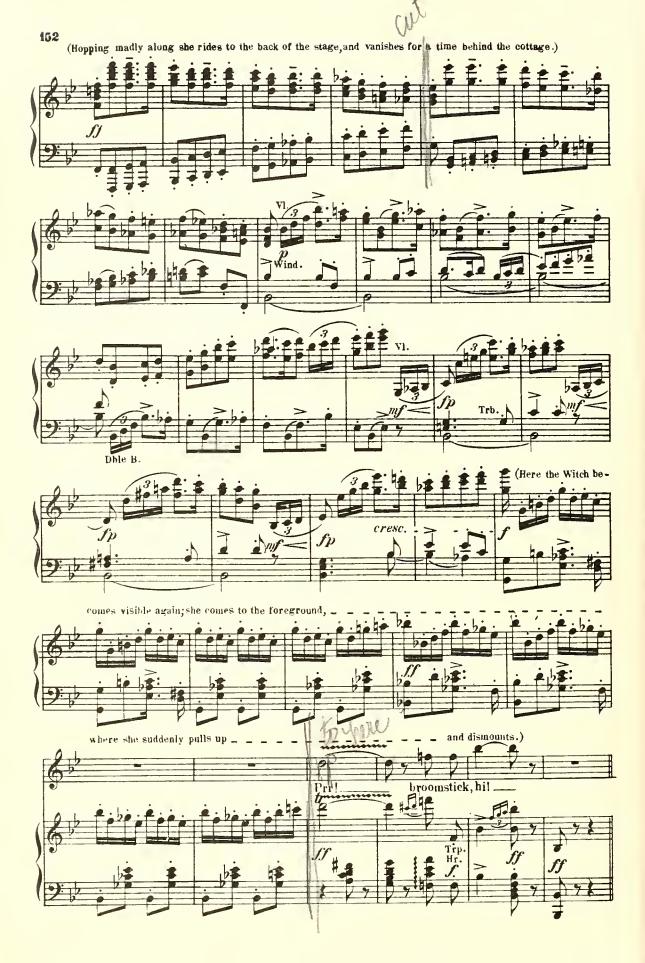




L'istesso tempo. (A= A) 150 (In her wild delight she seizes a broomstick and begins to ride upon it.) So Cl. 3 (She rides excitedly round on the broomstick.) (She rides again; Gretel meanwhile is watching at the window.) mid-night hour, when none can know, to join the witch - es'

























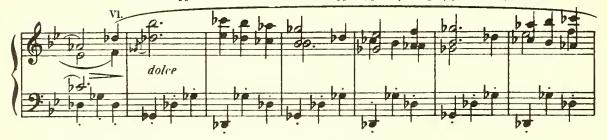


together, first in the front of the stage, and then gradually in the direction of the Witch's house.)





him. Then from the upper window he throws down apples, pears, oranges, gilded nuts, and all kinds of







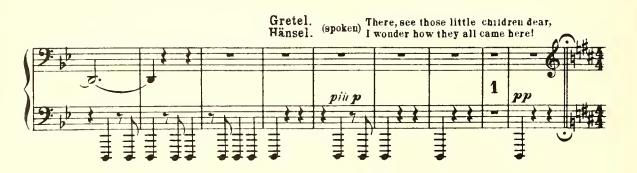


fall down, hurry towards the oven startled, and stand there motionless. Their astonishment increases when



they become aware of a troop of children around them, whose disguise of cakes has fallen from them.)





Scene IV.

































The End.

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